

# Central Valley Region Cannabis Regulatory Program

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# Central Valley Board Cannabis Program Update

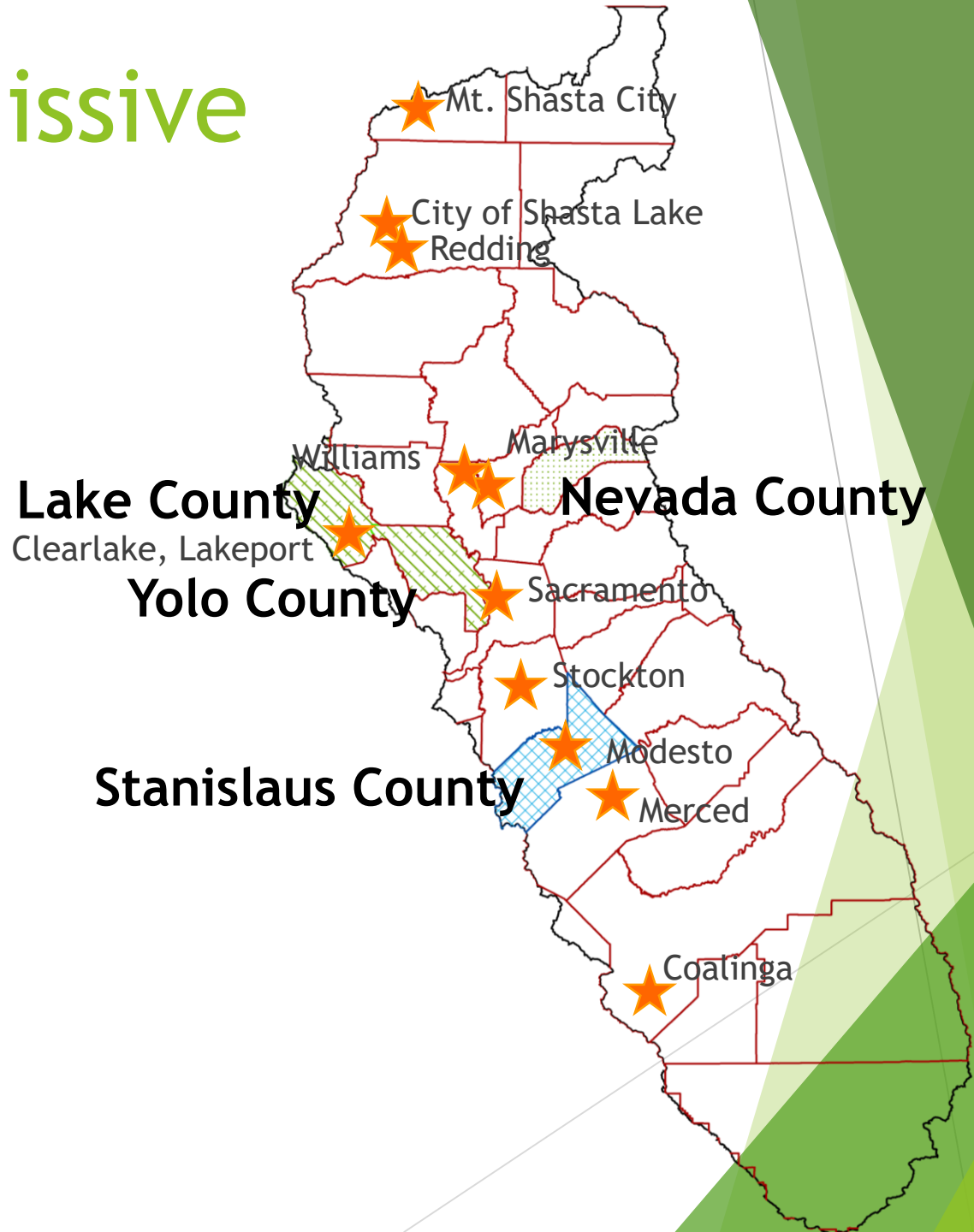
- ▶ Outreach and Enrollment Enforcement Strategy
  - ▶ Permitting Update
- ▶ Enforcement Efforts
  - ▶ Focused Operations
  - ▶ Challenges

# Outreach and Enrollment Enforcement Strategy

- ▶ Concise plan for conducting Enrollment Enforcement efforts
  - ▶ Outreach and Education as core component
  - ▶ Prioritization and work load balance
- ▶ Follow through
  - ▶ Timelines for task completion
  - ▶ Multiple attempts to gain compliance
  - ▶ Metrics to track success

# Central Valley Permissive Jurisdictions

- ▶ Fully-permissive outdoor cultivation
- ▶ Minimally-sized outdoor cultivation
- ▶ Indoor cultivation only



# 2017 Cannabis Focused Enforcement Operations

- ▶ Operation Terminus
  - ▶ Calaveras County
  - ▶ August 2017
- ▶ 18 Sites inspected in one week - Focus on illegal sites with environmental damages
- ▶ Extensive coordination with multiple agencies



## Update: Illegal Marijuana Grows In Calaveras Subject To 'Operation Terminus'



08/04/2017 12:14 pm PST (<http://www.mymotherjode.com/news/local/315074/illegal-marijuana-grows-in-calaveras-subject-to-operation-terminus.html>)

Tori James, MML News Reporter

**Update at 12:14pm:** Calaveras Sheriff Rick DiBasilio shares some newly updated figures relating to the county's Operation Terminus illegal cannabis eradication project in partnership with several state enforcement agencies.

The latest figures indicate the seizure of 28,650 marijuana plants, 12 opium pods, 31 tons of unprocessed marijuana, 1,898 pounds of processed marijuana, 13 firearms, one piece of body armor and just over \$57,000 in cash with over \$50,000 of that from one location seized Thursday afternoon.

The sheriff adds that in addition to 35 arrests made so far this week, over 150 criminal environmental violations were issued or opened for investigation. Of these, 97 are related to Fish & Wildlife, 29 to water quality, 24 to water rights and five are CAL Fire land conversion cases.

Video from Thursday's media conference has been added. To view clips, click on the links at the bottom of this article.

**Original Post at 6:02am:** San Andreas, CA — When it comes to ridding the county of its illegal cannabis woes, the long arm of the law in Calaveras looks like it has undergone a major growth spurt.

While Clarke Broadcasting has been providing updates on the recent uptick in illegal marijuana grow eradication underway, as [reported here \(https://www.mymotherjode.com/news/local/317511/illegal-grow-busters-teams-busy/\)](https://www.mymotherjode.com/news/local/317511/illegal-grow-busters-teams-busy/), Thursday afternoon, the Calaveras Sheriff's Office rolled out details of an impressive multi-agency cooperative whose goal is not only to permanently shut down these grows but also to hold growers and/or landowners accountable for the environmental damages they cause.

Dubbed Operation Terminus, the new alliance includes the California National Guard Counter Drug Task Force, CHP, California Fish and Wildlife and the State and Central Valley Regional water boards, who are providing their tools and environmental enforcement teeth. Additionally, through Calaveras County Attorney Barbara Yook, a California District Attorneys Association special unit prosecutor has been sworn to assist in prosecuting the resulting cases as crimes against the environment.

According to Calaveras Sheriff's Captain Jim Macedo, who provided some quick stats at a media conference, as of Thursday afternoon Operation Terminus activities at 23 sites involved arresting 35 suspects and the eradication of over 27,000 marijuana plants — some 20 tons — which carry an estimated street value of \$27 million to \$108 million, depending on the valuation figure assigned (between \$1,000 and \$4,000/plant). Also confiscated were 11 firearms and/or assault weapons, some with serial numbers partially removed; \$7,000 cash and body armor from two subjects. Costs of the operation are still being gathered.

### Illegal Grows Being Cited For Environmental Crimes

The sites showed signs of numerous environmental crimes. Among these were damage to the watershed and waterways, such as through grading and water diversions, illegal pesticide and herbicide use and discharge of human waste into waterways, conditions that were not permitted, substandard or that could have caused structure or wildfires. Where growers who do not own the land have fled or fail to become accountable the burden falls onto the property owners.

In his overview of the operation, Macedo also revealed the reason behind choosing the word "terminus" which, in Latin means "the end of the line." "We are working with the allied agencies towards ending the line of the large group of growers who have come from across the US and California, committing crimes and causing significant environmental damage to Calaveras County," he explained. The environmental agencies, as the captain emphasized, are essential partners; due to the nature of the

# 2018 Cannabis Focused Enforcement

- ▶ Operation Green Wave
  - ▶ Illegal cannabis cultivation sites in four counties
  - ▶ Two weeks of inspections - July 8<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> 2018
  - ▶ Central Valley and North Coast Waterboards
  - ▶ 27 Inspections July 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ Months of planning with multiple agencies
- ▶ 4 county sheriffs' offices, CDFW, State Board, California National Guard
- ▶ Rapid Inspection Memo development

[http://www.calaverasenterprise.com/news/article\\_13902288-860f-11e8-b394-83ee7447d3f3.html](http://www.calaverasenterprise.com/news/article_13902288-860f-11e8-b394-83ee7447d3f3.html)

**Authorities seize nearly 27,000 plants, identify environmental crimes in countywide pot bust**

Davis Harper Jul 12, 2018

A multi-agency operation located numerous environmental violations in a series of marijuana raids across 15 Calaveras County locations earlier this week, most of which entailed damage to watersheds and waterways, authorities say.

Use of pesticides, stream diversion, and the removal of trees or grading without permits were the most common environmental crimes observed during the busts, reported Sheriff Rick DiBasilio in a Wednesday phone interview.

Starting Monday of this week, the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with several other cooperating agencies, began serving a series of criminal search warrants to "investigate for prosecution of persons or organizations responsible for committing criminal acts and environmental damage in Calaveras County," stated a press release issued by the Sheriff's Office on Wednesday.

The search warrants were part of a month-long operation called Operation Green Wave, which has been dedicated to sniffing out illegal cannabis cultivation and directly associated environmental crimes, according to the press release.

In addition to the 26,597 marijuana plants eradicated and one ton of marijuana seized, officials arrested seven suspects, seized 11 firearms and \$3,580 across various sites in Mokelumne Hill, Mountain Ranch, and West Point, among other locations.

"It's law enforcement trying to get a handle on it and let illegal growers know that they're not welcome in our county," said DiBasilio. "We're trying to do our job to keep citizens safe."

[http://www.calaverasenterprise.com/news/article\\_13902288-860f-11e8-b394-83ee7447d3f3.html](http://www.calaverasenterprise.com/news/article_13902288-860f-11e8-b394-83ee7447d3f3.html)

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# Enforcement Challenges

- ▶ Difficulty obtaining proof of service
  - ▶ False or inaccurate mailing addresses
  - ▶ Highly mobile
- ▶ Rate of property transactions
- ▶ Out of area landowners
- ▶ Limited information related to ability to pay

The background of the slide features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

# Thank You for Your Time

## Questions?